

## CLAIMS:

1           1. For a switched telephone network, switching equipment comprising:  
2           a switch operating in said switched telephone network and operable to:  
3           (a) establish telephonic communications between callers and called  
4 parties over a predetermined number of subscriber lines with a standard ring  
5 pattern, and  
6           (b) transmit an emergency ring pattern over a majority of said subscriber  
7 lines in response to a single command event.

1           2. For a switched telephone network according to claim 1 wherein said  
2 switching equipment comprises:  
3           a link for sending a broadcast signal signifying the occurrence of said  
4 single command event, in order to broadcast the need for a recurrence  
5 elsewhere of a response performed locally by said switch in response to said  
6 single command event.

1           3. For a switched telephone network according to claim 2 wherein said  
2 link comprises a common channel signaling network.

1           4. For a switched telephone network according to claim 2 wherein said  
2 link comprises a common channel signaling network coupled to said switch,  
3 said switch being operable to transmit said broadcast signal to said link.

1           5. For a switched telephone network according to claim 2 wherein said  
2 broadcast signal includes information signifying a destination for said broadcast  
3 signal.

1           6. For a switched telephone network according to claim 2 wherein said  
2 broadcast signal includes information signifying an emergency type.

1           7. For a switched telephone network according to claim 1 wherein said  
2 switching equipment comprises:

3           a database having information about said subscriber lines, said switching  
4 equipment being operable to send said emergency ring pattern to a portion of  
5 said subscriber lines from said database in response to said single command  
6 event.

1           8. For a switched telephone network according to claim 1 wherein said  
2 switching equipment is operable to transmit said emergency ring pattern at  
3 different times for different groupings of the subscriber lines.

1           9. For a switched telephone network according to claim 8 wherein said  
2 switching equipment is operable to multiplex said emergency ring pattern in  
3 order to ring in the same time period with a different phase.

1           10. For a switched telephone network according to claim 8 wherein said  
2 subscriber lines are segregated into a plurality of ordered tiers, said switching  
3 equipment being operable to sequentially ring individual ones of said ordered  
4 tiers exclusively before completing and sequencing to the next one of said tiers.

1           11. For a switched telephone network according to claim 1 wherein said  
2 switching equipment comprises:

3           a link for sending a broadcast signal signifying the occurrence of said  
4 single command event to one or more cellular telephone networks and PBXs,  
5 in order to broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a response  
6 performed locally by said switch in response to said single command event.

1           12. For a switched telephone network employing a common channel  
2 signaling network, switching equipment comprising:

3           a switch operating in said switched telephone network and operable to:  
4 (a) establish telephonic communications between callers and called

5 parties over a plurality of subscriber lines with a standard ring pattern, and  
6 (b) transmit an emergency ring pattern in response to a single command  
7 event conveyed to said switch over said common channel signaling network.

1 13. For a switched telephone network according to claim 12 wherein said  
2 switching equipment comprises:

3 a link for sending a broadcast signal over said common channel signaling  
4 network signifying the occurrence of said single command event, in order to  
5 broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a response performed locally  
6 by said switch in response to said single command event.

1 14. For a switched telephone network according to claim 13 wherein said  
2 broadcast signal includes information signifying a destination for said broadcast  
3 signal.

1 15. For a switched telephone network according to claim 13 wherein said  
2 broadcast signal includes information signifying an emergency type.

1 16. For a switched telephone network according to claim 12 wherein said  
2 switching equipment comprises:

3 a database having information about said subscriber lines, said switching  
4 equipment being operable to send said emergency ring pattern to a portion of  
5 said subscriber lines from said database in response to said single command  
6 event.

1 17. For a switched telephone network according to claim 12 wherein said  
2 switching equipment is operable to transmit said emergency ring pattern at  
3 different times for different groupings of the subscriber lines.

1 18. For a switched telephone network according to claim 17 wherein said  
2 switching equipment is operable to multiplex said emergency ring pattern in

3 order to ring in the same time period with a different phase.

1 19. For a switched telephone network according to claim 17 wherein said  
2 subscriber lines are segregated into a plurality of ordered tiers, said switching  
3 equipment being operable to sequentially ring individual ones of said ordered  
4 tiers exclusively before completing and sequencing to the next one of said tiers.

1 20. For a switched telephone network according to claim 12 wherein said  
2 switching equipment comprises:

3 a link for sending a broadcast signal signifying the occurrence of said  
4 single command event to one or more cellular telephone networks and PBXs, in  
5 order to broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a response performed  
locally by said switch in response to said single command event.

1 21. In a communications system having a switched telephone network  
2 and a common channel signaling network, an emergency broadcast system  
3 comprising:

4 an emergency center for issuing a broadcast signal destined to travel on  
5 said common channel signaling network and having information designed to  
6 initiate on said switched telephone network:

7 (a) switching that simultaneously connects a plurality of telephones; and

8 (b) transmission of a distinct ring pattern to said plurality of telephones.

1 22. In a communications system according to claim 21 wherein said  
2 broadcast signal includes information signifying a destination for said broadcast  
3 signal.

1 23. In a communications system according to claim 21 wherein said  
2 broadcast signal includes information signifying an emergency type.

1 24. In a communications system according to claim 21 wherein said

emergency center comprises:

a link for sending the broadcast signal to one or more cellular telephone networks and PBXs.

25. A method employing a switched telephone network and a common channel signaling network for broadcasting an emergency signal, comprising the steps of:

receiving a broadcast signal on said common channel signaling network;  
performing switching on said switched telephone network in response to said broadcast signal in order to simultaneously connect a plurality of telephones; and  
transmitting an emergency ring pattern to said plurality of telephones.

26. A method according to claim 25 comprising the step of:

sending the broadcast signal over said common channel signaling network, in order to broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a response performed locally.

27. A method according to claim 26 wherein said broadcast signal includes information signifying a destination for said broadcast signal.

28. A method according to claim 26 wherein said broadcast signal includes information signifying an emergency type.

29. A method according to claim 25 wherein a database of subscriber lines is maintained for local switching equipment, the method including the step of:

sending said emergency ring pattern to a portion of said subscriber lines from said database in response to said broadcast signal.

30. A method according to claim 25 wherein the step of transmitting a

ring pattern is performed by transmitting said emergency ring pattern at different times for different groupings of subscriber lines.

31. A method according to claim 30 wherein the step of transmitting a ring pattern is performed by multiplexing said emergency ring pattern in order to ring different lines in the same time period with a different phase.

32. A method according to claim 30 wherein a central office has jurisdiction over a plurality of subscriber lines that are segregated into a plurality of ordered tiers, the step of transmitting a ring pattern being performed by sequentially ringing individual ones of said ordered tiers exclusively before completing and sequencing to the next one of said tiers.

33. A method according to claim 25 comprising the step of:  
sending the broadcast signal to one or more cellular telephone networks and PBXs, in order to broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a response performed locally in response to said broadcast signal.

34. A method employing a switched telephone network and a common channel signaling network for broadcasting an emergency signal in response to a single command event, comprising the steps of:  
establishing telephonic communications between callers and called parties over a predetermined number of subscriber lines with a standard ring pattern, and  
transmitting an emergency ring pattern over a majority of said subscriber lines in response to a single command event.

35. A method according to claim 34 comprising the step of:  
sending a broadcast signal signifying the occurrence of said single command event, in order to broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a response performed locally in response to said single command event.

1           36. A method according to claim 35 wherein the broadcast signal  
2 includes information signifying a destination for said broadcast signal.

1           37. A method according to claim 35 wherein said broadcast signal  
2 includes information signifying an emergency type.

1           38. A method according to claim 34 wherein a database of subscriber  
2 lines is maintained for local switching equipment, the method including the step  
3 of:

4           sending said emergency ring pattern to a portion of said subscriber lines  
5 from said database in response to said single command event.

1           39. A method according to claim 34 wherein the step of transmitting an  
2 emergency ring pattern is performed by transmitting said emergency ring pattern  
3 at different times for different groupings of lines.

1           40. A method according to claim 39 wherein the step of transmitting an  
2 emergency ring pattern is performed by multiplexing said emergency ring pattern  
3 in order to ring different lines in the same time period with a different phase.

1           41. A method according to claim 39 wherein a central office has  
2 jurisdiction over a plurality of subscriber lines that are segregated into a plurality  
3 of ordered tiers, the step of transmitting a ring pattern being performed by  
4 sequentially ringing individual ones of said ordered tiers exclusively before  
5 completing and sequencing to the next one of said tiers.

1           42. A method according to claim 34 wherein comprising the step of:  
2 sending a broadcast signal signifying the occurrence of said single  
3 command event to one or more cellular telephone networks and PBXs, in order  
4 to broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a response performed

5 locally in response to said single command event.

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